

perhaps *A. repens* stay paired following such a mating.

Monogamy has been recorded in several species of reptiles, and is more commonly short-term (hours to days; Bull 2000). In the Australian Sleepy Lizard *Tiliqua rugosa*, however, monogamous pairs form for six to eight weeks prior to mating, although the partners separate immediately following the mating (Bull 2000). My observations of *A. repens* pairs, at a time that is probably several months post-mating, are anomalous. Further investigation will be required to determine whether the reproductive ecology of *A. repens* is a unique case, or whether my observations were simply chance events.

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Buff-banded Rail breeding at Pelican Point – On Saturday 30 August 2003 I found a single, broken Buff-banded Rail *Gallirallus philippensis* egg-shell, in the Pelican Point Nature Reserve, Crawley. This finding is the first proof of these birds breeding at Pelican Point. The egg-shell was found under a clump of Sea-rush *Juncus kraussii*, about 15 m from the nearest edge of the estuarine ponds. Although about one quarter of the eggshell was missing, the patterning was clear and I was able to measure its dimensions (c. 37 mm x 25 mm) to allow positive identification of the egg (Johnstone and Storr 1998).

The location of the egg was consistent with what is known of the breeding biology of Buff-banded Rail. The species prefers to nest among long grass, rushes, reeds or sedges in saltmarshes, usually near water, and laying commences in August or September in southern Australia (Marchant and Higgins 1993). Buff-banded Rail have been recorded breeding in similar habitat elsewhere on the Swan Coastal Plain (e.g. Bibra Lake, Lake Gwelup, BAWA 2003).

The Pelican Point Reserve has been surveyed on a weekly basis during summer since at least 1972, and on a weekly basis all year around for the last three years, yet Buff-banded Rail have not been recorded breeding at the site

(Johnstone and Storr 1998, K. Creed, pers. comm.). In recent years Buff-banded Rail have been regularly observed (23% of visits in 2001, and 17% of the 2002 surveys, K. Creed unpub. data), and, on occasion, small parties of birds, including individuals that were thought to be immature, have been noted (3, 21/11/2001; 4, 06/01/2002; 3, 10/02/2003; K. Creed unpub. data). Given the apparent increase in Buff-banded Rail abundance on the Swan Coastal Plain in recent years, it is not surprising that there is now proof of their breeding at Pelican Point.

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Predation of Loggerhead turtle hatchlings by the Boodie (*Bettongia lesueur*) on Dorre Island, Western Australia - The Boodie is a nocturnal and gregarious macropod that inhabits burrows of its own construction. It is omnivorous, feeding on invertebrates, seeds, fungi, fruit, nuts, and carrion (Burbidge 1996, Robley *et al.* 2001). At the time of European settlement the Boodie was wide spread across the southern two thirds of Australia, but is now confined to four islands off the Western Australian Coast (Short and Turner 1999, Morris 2002).

During a visit to the northern end of Dorre Is (60km west of Carnarvon, WA) in March 2003, it was observed that over 20 Loggerhead Turtle (*Caretta caretta*) nests had been dug up and the emerging hatchlings taken within the previous 24 to 48 hours. Fresh Boodie tracks were found in and around the nests. Boodies had excavated an area approximately 1m across and had dug down 450 to 500mm to expose the nesting chamber and the egg shells of the emerging hatchlings. Loggerhead Turtles are the most threatened turtle in WA waters.

It was noted that there had been a significant predation of the hatchlings as there were few hatchling tracks leaving the nest; in most cases less than six sets of tracks were observed. It would be expected that significantly more hatchlings than this would leave a nest: on Dirk Hartog Island the average number of eggs per clutch is 141 (Prince 2000). It appears that the predation was opportunistic